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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 SY-05  
SYE-00 DCT-02 AID-07 /098 W

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O R 162017Z MAY 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5405  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
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[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4120

USEEC

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/16/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P  
TAGS: SHUM AR  
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAR RIGHTS SUMMARY - MAY 10-16, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3909

1. (U) THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF ENTRE RIOS AND SANTA FE  
WERE THE SCENES OF SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS, ONE  
OF THEM VERY SERIOUS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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--NINE PEOPLE, SOME OF THEM MINOR CHILDREN, DISAPPEARED IN  
THE PROVINCIAL CITY OF ROSARIO (BUENOS AIRES 4018).

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THE VICTIMS WERE REPORTEDLY ROUNDED UP ON MAY 7 AND MAY 11 BY UNIFORMED ARMY PERSONNEL. THE DISAPPEARANCES WERE APPARENTLY RELATED TO A LOCAL CRACKDOWN ON THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PST), A SMALL, NON-VIOLENT LEFTIST PARTY THAT WAS OFFICIALLY BANNED IN 1976 (PARTIES LIKE THE RADICALS AND THE PERONIST HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED BUT NOT BANNED). THE MILITARY AND POLICE IN ROSARIO DENIED TO RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED THAT THEY WERE BEING HELD.

--ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE LEFTIST INTRANSIGENT PARTY WERE ARRESTED IN THE ENTRE RIOS CITY OF CONCORDIA. THE POLICE ADMITTED TO HOLDING THEM, ALLEGEDLY AS A PART OF A DRAGNET AGAINST CRIMINALS. THEY WERE THEN RELEASED.

--AN ARMY OFFICER AND CIVILIAN ACCOMPLICE REPORTEDLY WERE ARRESTED FOR EXTORTIONIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST SHOP OWNERS IN ROSARIO.

--ALSO IN ROSARIO, FOUR POLICE OFFICERS WERE GIVEN LONG SENTENCES FOR BEATING A PRISONER TO DEATH AND CAUSING OTHER SERIOUS INJURIES IN 1978.

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE PST DISAPPEARANCES IN ROSARIO ARE A GRIM DEVELOPMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME AUTHORITIES IN BUENOS AIRES WERE SURPRISED AND ANGERED BY THE OPERATION--THOUGH WHETHER THIS WILL BE ENOUGH TO END THEIR DISAPPEARANCE IS STILL UNCERTAIN.

3. (U) JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES DETAINED AND RELEASED:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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FIFTY-ONE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WERE ARRESTED IN THE CITY OF LA PLATA WHEN POLICE BROKE UP A CONFERENCE CUM SLIDE SHOW SPONSORED BY THE SECT AT A LOCAL HOTEL. THE ARRESTEES WERE FREED BUT THE POLICE KEPT THE SLIDES.  
MASTRO

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